



## What is the Special Education Advisory Panel?

The Special Education Advisory Panel is a requirement of *The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction appoints the members and nominations are solicited from across the state. Fifty-one percent of the Special Education Advisory Panel membership must be individuals with disabilities or the parents of children with disabilities.

Other members include:

- ⊗ Administrator(s) of programs for children with disabilities
- ⊗ Special Education and General Education Teachers
- ⊗ Special Ed Director & Superintendent/ Assistant Superintendent of Schools
- ⊗ Charter School or Private School Representative
- ⊗ Representatives of Vocational, Community or Business Organizations concerned with services to children with disabilities
- ⊗ Representatives of the Department of Adult and Juvenile Corrections
- ⊗ Representatives of Institutions of Higher Education
- ⊗ Representative of State agencies involved in financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities



## What is the role of the Special Education Advisory Panel?

The main role of the Panel is to make recommendations to the Bureau of Special Education regarding the following:

- ⊗ the unmet educational needs of children with disabilities;
- ⊗ the Bureau of Special Education's annual plan and any proposed rule changes;
- ⊗ the Bureau of Special Education's data collection system;
- ⊗ legislation affecting children with disabilities;
- ⊗ the distribution of educational funds;
- ⊗ the collaboration among service providers;
- ⊗ the strategic plan of the Bureau of Special Education; and
- ⊗ the training needs within universities and school districts.



## What are the responsibilities of Panel Members?

The Panel members' responsibilities include:

- ⊗ attending three to four meetings per year;
- ⊗ participating actively on standing and ad hoc committees;
- ⊗ sharing concerns about the education of children with disabilities and identifying constructive solutions;
- ⊗ representing the viewpoints of the member's constituency or agency and keeping them informed of Panel activities; and
- ⊗ sharing their expertise with other Panel members.

The Panel submits an annual report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. All Special Education Advisory Panel meetings are open to the public. Copies of reports are available from the Bureau of Special Education.



The Special Education Advisory Panel provides an opportunity for members to influence educational services to children with disabilities. In recent years, the Panel has commented on Charter School legislation, made public funding requests, advocated for increased funding for parent training, assisted with the Bureau of Special Education's application for a federal State Improvement Grant, and influenced personnel preparation and training opportunities.



For more information on the Special Education Advisory Panel, please contact the following:

Idaho State Department of Education  
Bureau of Special Education  
P. O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0027  
(208) 332-6913 Fax (208) 334-4664  
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Web: [www.sde.state.id.us/SpecialEd/](http://www.sde.state.id.us/SpecialEd/)

If any person is interested in obtaining membership information or serving on the Panel, we welcome your interest. For more information, please contact:

State Department of Education  
Bureau of Special Education  
208-332-6913

E-mail: [blsteiner-leavitt@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:blsteiner-leavitt@sde.idaho.gov)



Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status in any educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. (Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.)

It is the policy of the Idaho State Department of Education not to discriminate in any educational programs or activities or in employment practices.

Inquiries regarding compliance with this nondiscriminatory policy may be directed to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0027; (208) 332-6800; or to the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Seattle Office, U.S. Department of Education, 915 Second Avenue, Seattle, WA 98174-1099; (206) 220-7880, Fax (206) 220-7887.

# Special Education Advisory Panel

Working to Improve  
Special Education  
Services for Idaho's  
Children



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